The DX Bulletin

AMERICA'S OLDEST WEEKLY AMATEUR RADIO PUBLICATION

ISSUE 257 SEPTEMBER 30, 1984

PROPAGATION: Sep 30, Low Normal; Oct 1, Disturbed; Oct 2, Below Normal/Disturbed; Oct 3, Low Normal; Oct 4, High/Low Normal; Oct 5, Low Normal; Oct 6, High Normal; Oct 7-13, Low Normal; Oct 14, 15, High Normal; Oct 16, Below Normal. TNX N4XX.

Flux (80)	Flux (81)	Flux (82)	Flux (83)	Date	Flux (84)	Alpha (84)	K (84)
166	199	146	100	9/20	74	27	3
158	190	144	100	9/21	74	20	3
177	182	145	102	9/22	75	10	2
194	183	152	105	9/23	75	24	4
190	181	166	112	9/24	76	70	5
183	181	170	111	9/25	76	30	3
183	188	186	111	9/26	74	23	4

GUINEA BISSAU: UB5WAD has fired up as J5WAD and reportedly will be there one year. He was initially limited to 14.157 but now has been worked at other spots on 20 SSB, sometimes by a list, around 2000Z. Two things to keep in mind: as a Soviet assigned to an African country, Vlad is highly unlikely to be operating without some kind of official permission; whether that permission will reach Newington is another story. And as a licensed Soviet amateur, it can be assumed that he knows CW and is a trained operator.

DX Report says that Canada's DOC has reversed itself again and now shows Gerry, 5X5GK, as being VE7FXX. This may increase the chances that someday he will pry a license, in writing, out of the Ugandan authorities. For now, no license, and no DXCC credit. Gerry shows mostly on 15 SSB, 1500-1800Z.

TL8GE/STØ S. Sudan rumors going around, for an impending operation; QSLs for Michele's operation from there earlier this year DO count for DXCC, as no written permission is required from the S. Sudan.

RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION EARLY AND OFTEN!

LOW BAND NOTES: S. Florida DX group said to be aiming for serious 80/40 Meter work from BVØW next month. A few lucky US and VE worked BVØJA on 40 during last June's operation, but not many...P29JS (VK9NS) has ten months to go on P.N.G., and he's readying a 160 Meter antenna for the upcoming season...Nets are springing up on 75 Meters: the "West Gulf DX Net" will be working on 3787 at 0300Z this Fall and Winter...CEØAA has been available several evenings a week on 7174, around 0400Z, and they are on 75 Meters, 3775-3790, on Wednesdays and Fridays at 04 and 0800Z... You'd be shocked at how many US/VE West Coasters have worked BY1PK and BY4AA on 80 Meters; one local DXer on the Right Coast has his sights set on working them on 160 Meters this year...9M2CO worked in Europe Sept 25, at 2200Z, on 3795, and our New Hampshire desk reports he was audible there (2X3); this might be a certain W6-type rumored to be in Malaysia for several months...the main place VK9ZA seems to be showing is 75 Meters (see Bandpass); and we had solid copy the other morning on ZL7OY, using a 50-foot piece of wire about ten feet above the dirt...FB8WK was worked from Michigan last week, on 10.102 MHz, 0320Z, and seemed legitimate...the German Desk reports S8 signals from KH6XX on 40, at 0530Z, and they anxiously await ZL1AMO to fire up on 40 and 80 from FW8 next month...Yankee Clipper Contest Club prexy notes a new "West Coast 160 Meter Bulletin" by N7CKD (Callbook adr); it is apparently published about six times a year, and we suggest you write to him if interested...

FINALLY, please remember that there's a move afoot at FCC to allocate 1950-2000 exclusively to non-amateurs, and 1950-2000 KHz on a shared basis (see TDXB 256). Write to FCC NOW about this, if you care.

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No technical talk, just practical experience

LOW-BAND ANTENNAS

FALLING LEAVES AND FALLING SUNSPOTS make many of us think about operating on 40, 80, and 160 Meters. We will try to sort out the options for you, drawing on twenty-three years of mistakes on our part.

It can generally be said that on 7 MHZ and above, the best antenna for transmitting is also the best antenna for receiving. On 80 and 160, however, this is seldom if ever the case. We will draw these distinctions when necessary.

FLAT DIPOLES: We don't like them. They have no gain, no directivity (except the occasional null off the ends), and are generally high-angle radiators unless they are very high. What about the "rotary dipoles" being offered to turn along with your HF beam(s)? Well, they are mostly "loaded" elements, thus are less efficient than a full-length aerial. People we know who swear by them put them into service on those rare occasions when, for some reason, their "big antenna" is at the wrong height for a particular path. However, if you use a 40 Meter rotary dipole on your 100-foot tower, it will work DX!

INVERTED VEEs: Our experience has been that these often work better than a flat dipole at the same height, and we suspect that it's because they fill out the pattern better than a flat dipole, i.e., no nulls.

SLOPING DIPOLES: Our favorite in the cheap-and-dirty competition. Suspended from a tower which, we assume, acts as a reflector, "slopers" are quite directive in front-to-back. On all three bands these are also good receiving aerials, as their low-angle reduces local strong signal interference. We have found that the textbook recommendation of a 45-degree angle is correct, and critical. 80-Meter slopers tried on an 80-90 foot tower have not worked properly, whether they were straight at an angle greater than 45 degrees or whether the bottom half of the dipole was stretched out parallel to the ground.

Slopers suspended from non-metallic objects do not have as much F/B as those with a metal tower behind them. We have also used systems with several slopers used, one driven and the others having inductance switched in to make them act as reflectors. We do not think they were worth the added work and expense.

FIXED WIRE BEAMS: these fall into categories: all elements driven vs parasitic arrays, and yagi vs quad configurations. All these are uni-directional, unless a nightmarish electronic configuration is used to switch them 180 degrees; wasted effort, we think. Mostly, what we've found with these antennas was that due to the small element diameters and surrounding objects, the elements don't "see" each other very well. We like this kind of aerial for a field day station, but not at a permanent site. There are simply better alternatives, at the same cost.

VERTICALS: when they're done right, they are great transmitting antennas. But laying radials is just about everybody's most labor-intensive job, and if your ground isn't right the work is for naught. Phased verticals work even better, but multiply the labor by the number of elements in the system, then add in the great expense of cable, switching, etc., and further consider that when you're done you still only have an aerial for one band.

Shunt-feeding an existing tower saves the problem of erecting a metal stick, but you must still get a ground system in, and we have never had a shunt-fed tower vertical work as well as a single metal pole vertical. One advantage of these systems is that if your CW monitor fails, you can always just watch the lights in your rotator control box blink when you transmit!

ROTARY QUADS: if you live in the North, the ice will bring them down; in the South, wait for a hurricane, tornado, or Santa Ana Winds to do it. Good luck.

ROTARY YAGIS: the best, of course. We do not know of a "shortened" 40 Meter yagi that works over more than about 200 KHz. The newcomers will be asking you how's come their tribander works over all of 20 and most of 15 and 10. Tell them it's just like the years going by faster as you get older. If you're brave, hit them with the old "bandwidth as a percentage of frequency" ploy. Most of the short 40 and 80 Meter yagis are terrific over about 50 KHz; you can "pick a mode" for top performance, or choose a frequency midway between 'phone and CW for less; a few people are very loud at 7100, but who cares?

RECEIVING: as noted, 80 and 160 require separate receiving antennas, unless you are blessed with one of the new KLM yagis for 80. The two receiving problems on these bands are atmospheric noise (QRN) and strong local signals from other hams. Both can be reduced by using a beverage; trouble is, you need at least 300-400 feet for 80, and more for 160. We are just utterly grossed out by the so-called "receiving loops." If a guy a mile away is running a KW, you can null him pretty well with one of these; but you won't hear any DX on it.

Beverage antennas are the DXer's choice, and reams have been written about them. Jim's pet, foolproof Beverage, is 400 feet or so for 80, terminated to ground through 500 ohms (in the receive direction), fed with coax (with the shield grounded at the feed point). We use a preamp at the receiver, as the Beverage is highly inefficient. The DX will drop two S Units, while the noise drops five! Put the wire just high enough that Kareem Abdul Jabbar won't run into it.

FINALLY, remember that every dB you pick up on these bands buys you a lot more than a dB on 20, 15, and 10, with respect to the competition.

BANDPASS: Call/Frequency/UTC (plus West, Mountain, Central, East report)/Date

AP2AU 14180 03W 22
A35SA 14320 04W 22
BY5RA 14180 12E 16
BY5RA 14180 12E 17
BY4AA 14180 12E 18
BY5RA 14191 03W 22
CE2CAW 7006 02E 20
CE3EEO 3799 03C 24
CEØERY 14208 03W 21
CEØGBL 14251 03W 23
CEØAA 21030 15M 16
CEØAA 21295 18E 17
CEØAA 3815 08E 18
Weds and Fris)
CEØAA 21245 20E 18
CEØAA 14236 00Z
Nightly, list
CEØAA 3795 09E 19
CEØAA 14030 13C 19
CEØAA 14033 02E 20
CEØAA 21245 21W 20
CEØAA 3795 10E 21
CEØAA 21030 15E 21
CEØAA 21250 21E 21
CEØAA 7174 04E 22
CN2AQ 7013 01E 21
CN2AQ 3502 00E 24
C)2LA 7028 01E 14
CM8AR 7040 11E 16
CO7RG 7088 11W 17
CO2HQ 3772 03C 18
CO2GB 3793 05E 21
CO5GV 3785 03E 23
CM2QP 3806 05E 23
CP5IB 7013 10E 20
CT2CB 3795 06C 18
C21BD 14220 05W 23
DJØSB/
C6A 3796 02E 20
DU3A 14153 13E 14
D68WB 21285 20W 22
G6ZY/
EA6 14028 23E 17
EA8ABR 14040 22E 16
EA8ADP 21287 21C 16
EA8ABG 14012 22E 17
EA9KD 14040 00E 17
EA9IE 3796 04E 21
K6EID/
EA9 14193 23E 21
EL2AL 21274 13E 15
FB8WK 7019 03E 16
FB8WK 3505 05E 23
FMØWO 7004 10E 17
FM7CT 7010 11E 17
FM4DJ 14049 12E 18
FM7WD 7004 11E 19
FO8HL 14180 03W 17
FW8AF 14236 03E 8
FW8AF 14236 03W 22
GU3HFN 14012 21E 18
HBØNL 7002 02E 18
HBØNL 14013 12E 19
HC5NAI 7003 02E 20
HC5NAI 7013 10E 20
HI8LC 3780 03C 18
HKØBKX 7002 01E 21
HKØHEU 3795 05E 22
HKØBKX 7004 05E 23
HH2CF 14013 02E 20
HH5CB 3791 10E 23
HZ1AB 14200 13E 18
H44IA 3792 12M 16
H44IA 7011 12E 16
H44IA 7007 11E 18
H44IA 7010 12C 19
H44IA 7006 12M 20
ISØNZA 7017 01E 21
ISØNMH 21018 14E 16
ISØWDX 14017 21E 17
ISØWJS 14015 21E 19
JWØEQ 7002 00C 17
JW6VDA 14192 02W 22
JW6VDA 14215 14W 22
J73PB 21345 22E 15
J73D 3512 10E 21
J73D 7012 10E 21
J73LC 3800 02E 24
J88AQ 21298 20W 22
J5WAD 14170 20E 24
KC6IN 3794 12C 23
KC6IN 3793 11E 26
KG4DX 3797 04C 23
KG6RI 14294 04W 18
KG6GG 14309 02W 22
KL7GKY 3786 06E 18
AH8A 14308 02W 22
KX6DS 3502 10E 18
KX6OA 14294 04E 18
KX6DS 14214 05W 23
DL4OAJ/
LX 14012 00E 16
LX1JP 14028 23E 17
LX1GN 14023 21E 20
KD2HE/
OA4 14027 13E 16
KD2HE/
OA4 21030 19E 16
OHØAL 14027 17E 16
OHØBE 14031 13E 16
OHØAD 14016 12C 16
OY7ML 7006 23E 18
PJ2HB 21345 22C 15
PAØJLS/
PJ2 14016 17E 22
PJ8DFS 21291 15E 15
PJ7VL 14031 19E 16
PZ1AG 7013 23E 16
PZ2AC 7008 04C 20
PZ1DV 7003 04E 23
P29PL 7006 11E 17
P29JS 7006 12M 17
SV1DW 14032 22E 21
WØPU/
SV9 7009 01E 18
TA1MN 14031 21E 20
TF3SA 14004 22E 21
TG9NX 3788 08E 19
TG9FC 7015 02E 20
TI2J 3790 04E 21
TI5EWL 3790 11C 23
FØFRV/
TK 14014 21E 17
TK5EL 14050 12E 18
FØIRK/
TK 7002 00E 20
(not Rromelin!)
TR8DR 14194 20E 23
T2ADE 14225 03W 21
T32AF 14187 02W 17
T32AY 14185 02W 23
T77C 14170 16W 22
UR1RXO 14024 17E 22
RA2FA 14008 19E 15
UD6DWA 14030 12E 18
UG6GAW 7002 03E 22
UL7EA 14017 12E 18
UL7PEQ 14050 02E 21
UH8EWW 14042 13C 16
UL8FWL 14041 13C 17
UM9RWC 14014 13E 18
RI8CA 14196 03W 22
UAØFF 3644 13W 16
UZØQXB 14169 01C 17
UZØBWC 7007 10E 18
UAØFDX 3643 11E 23
UAØCW 3643 11C 23
VK6RI 3799 10C 23
VK6LW 7003 23E 18
VK9ZA 3798 12M 17
VK9ZA 3798 12C 20
VP8ASR 21329 17E 17
(Falklands)
VP8RAF 21032 21M 17
(ditto)
VP9KB 14275 00E 17
VP9JT 3798 02E 20
VU2JXO 14014 13E 16
VU2JXO 14020 01E 18
VU2RMV 14028 13E 18
VU2GDG 14227 16W 22
KA2DIV/
V2A 14024 12E 18
V44KG 3794 02E 19
(VP2K)
V85HG 14208 14C 16
YC8BR 3799 12M 16
YBØBNJ 14208 14C 16
YBØBZZ 14208 14C 16
YB3DC 14199 13E 18
YB2BNJ 14208 13E 22
YN5ASO 7004 11E 23
YN4RC 3791 11W 17
YN4RC 3798 11E 18
YS9CAG 14226 21C 16
YS7OB 14053 01E 19
YJ8RG 14221 04W 22
YJ8RG 14220 05W 23
ZD7AL 21266 20W 22
ZF1LA 14007 22E 16
ZK1XG 14180 03W 16
ZK1CG 14290 03W 18
ZK1XG 14181 03W 21
ZL7OY 14180 04W 23
ZP5CVM 14043 00E 14
ZP5XDW 21025 22E 16
ZS1GP 3786 04C 23
Z22JE 14175 13E 15
Z22JS 7005 04E 21
3B8DB 7007 03C 21
3D6AL 21257 17E 17
3D6AN 21307 18E 17
3D6AN 3792 04E 22
3D6AV 14159 14C 22
4JK1ANO 7004 04C 21
4U1ITU 21025 17E 16
4K1GAG 7002 02E 21
4U1ITU 14025 18E 16
4X4NJ 14185 19W 22
5N3WDC 21022 17E 17
5N8AMA 14200 23C 20
5N3RTF 3789 04E 24
5W1EW 14228 03W 16
5X5GK 21335 18E 17
5X5GK 21335 18E 20
5Z4MX 14029 17E 16
6W1NQ 21275 20E 18
6W1BL 3796 22E 23
6Y5DA 21315 22C 16
6Y5JH 14008 22E 20
7P8CI 21334 17E 16
8P6JQ 3797 02E 21
8R1RBF 14221 04W 22
9J2WS 21017 16M 15
9J2WS 21241 20W 22
9V1VY 14227 16W 16

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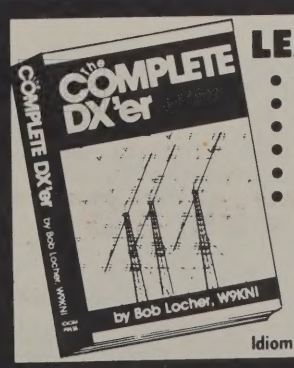

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C A L E N D A R

CAMBODIA	XU1SS Sundays, 1200Z, 14.245, w/VS6CT; 9/23 sked unsuccessful (no prop)
CHINA	Wednesdays and Saturdays, 14.155 or 14.180, w/DU9RG; various stations
S SHETLANDS	4K1GAG active 20/40/80 CW
WILLIS	VK9ZA on 75 SSB and occasionally 20 SSB
ANTIGUA	KA2DIV/V2A NOW to end of Oct or so
OBLAST 049	RI8CA operation ending any day now
BURUNDI	9U5JB back on 15 SSB, mostly
TRISTAN	ZD9CC sked Tuesdays, 21.290, 1900Z
LIECHTENSTEIN	HBØNL Now to Oct 14
THAILAND	HSØA occasionally; scheduled for CQ Phone
CROZET	FB8WK/WJ leave Nov; on 10 MHz now
MALDIVES	8Q by PA3DEV Sep 27-Oct 16
TAIWAN	BVØW by S. Fla group Oct 4-13; I255
ST LUCIA	J6 by KC2s CS, JM, Oct 9-19; I 255
WALLIS	FW8 by ZL1AMO starts Oct 10, three weeks
ECUADOR	Special HC1A Oct 10; I255
LOW BAND	Meeting in Mass Oct 13; I 254, 255
DXPO 84	In Virginia, Oct 13/14; W2HGK for details
DOMINICA	KC2CA/J73 Oct 14-16
S COOKS	ZK1XC/XD by PA3s BKM, DHH, Oct 23-Nov 5; I 256
MELLISH	Oct 25-Nov 6; details I251
Alaska	KL7GPG operationOct 18, QSL WL7K, 25th Anniversary of Alaska's Statehood
JAN MAYEN	Rumored by OH group Oct 23-30
SAO TOME	WB7RFA hoping for end of Oct; I 250
CQ WW Contest	PHONE, OCT 27/28
ZONE 2	K8AQM/VE2 group Oct 27/28
MONTSERRAT	VP2MW by British group Oct 27/28
B.V.I.	VP2VCW by N6CW, Oct 23-31
MACAO	KØCS group Oct 27/28; I 256
LIECHTENSTEIN	HBØBHA/AON by Germans, oct 27/28
TAIWAN	K7UGA group in NOV
DINNER	New England DXCC, Nov 10; details K1ST
160 METERS	DXCC endorsable Nov 1

OFFICIAL C E Ø A A SKED!

1230-1630Z, 14.010/14.037 and 21.010/21.037, CW

1800-2000Z, 14.110, SSB, for EU and S/Central America

2000-2230Z, 14.110, Europe

2245-2359Z, 14.190 SSB, for Canada and Caribbean

0000-0300Z, 14.236 SSB, for USA/Japan

0400Z-0600Z, 7085 SSB, for EU, Cent/So. America

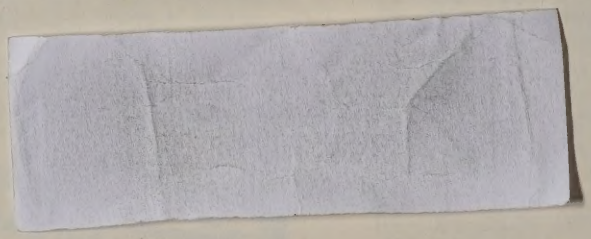
0600-0800Z, 7085 SSB, and 3730 SSB, Japan/Cent. Am.

ABOVE SCHEDULE received from CE3BXP of the "Zone 12 DX Group." It confirms that the operation lasts until the end of October, and QSLs go to Box 700, Santiago CHILE.

C O N T R I B U T O R S

KA1BU, KH6BZF, CE3BXP, K8AQM, WL7K, WP2ABZ, N6CW, W1VV, W4VQ, KC7WG, KA1SR, KA1XN, KR1G, W4BAA, W7HRD, KA3R, KØCVD, WB8ZRL, W1WAI, KN6M, N4NO, WD5AAM, K4BAI, K6IR, DA2ER.

PLEASE drop us a card or phone to request reporting sheets and envelopes. TDXB wants your input!



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